

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 13-20 will be pending in the above-identified application. Claims 13 and 17 are herein amended. No new matter has been entered. It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the Office action mailed on January 26, 2009.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 13-20 were rejected under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. §112. To expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention, Applicants herein amend claims 13 and 17. In view of these amendments, Applicants request favourable reconsideration of claims 13-20.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 13-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over *Goodman et al* (US 6454865).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited reference for the reasons discussed in Applicant's previously filed responses, in particular the response filed on September 30, 2008.

However, to expedite prosecution, Applicant herein amends claims 13 and 17 to further clarify the subject matter of the present invention. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13-20.

Claims 13 and 17 are amended, in part, to describe a susceptor having “an abutting section on a rear surface thereof.” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in Figure 1 (*e.g.*, the abutting sections (three are shown) receive (abut against) the protrusions of susceptor arms 15) and on page 10, lines 3-9 of the specification (*e.g.*, “...and the upward protrusions provided on the distal ends of the susceptor arms 15 are abutted against the lower surface of the susceptor 4 and support the susceptor 4.”)

Applicants submit that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest at least the aforementioned aspect of the claimed invention. For example, the Examiner considers that (1) the recess 62 shown in Fig. 16 of *Goodman* corresponds to the groove of the present invention and (2) the conduit 270e shown in Figs. 36 and 37 of *Goodman* correspond to the aperture of the present invention, and therefore considers that the claimed inventions would have realized by the combination of the recess 62 and the conduit 270e. However, the susceptor of *Goodman* has the recess 62 and the conduit 270e at the same position. In other words, the susceptor does not have a configuration that “the gas supply channel and the gas discharge channel are formed at positions different from a position of the abutting section.”

Furthermore, with respect to claims 14 and 18, Applicants submit that the recess 62 of *Goodman* is an inlet of the hollow spider 22, not for supplying gas to the wafer pocket by rotation of the susceptor. For this reason, the recess 62 is not curved, unlike claims 14 and 18 of the instant invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 13-20.

Application No.: 10/626,675
Art Unit: 1792

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 030901

Conclusion

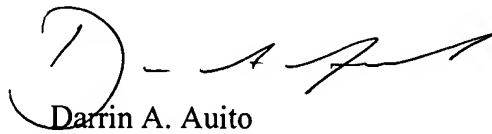
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrin A. Auito", is written over the printed name.

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